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District Attorney Jackie Lacey, City Attorney Mike Feuer and Other Top Law Enforcement Officials Raise DUI Awareness During the Holidays

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey and Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer were joined today by other top law enforcement officials to warn the public about the hazards of driving under the influence during the holiday season.

District Attorney Lacey urged people to not get behind the wheel if they are intoxicated.

"These are senseless – and easy-to-prevent – crimes that destroy the lives of everyone involved," District Attorney Lacey said. "Together, let us make our streets safer this holiday season, which is something we can all celebrate."

"Driving a car under the influence is against the law and so is driving a motorized scooter when impaired," said Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer. "This year alone my office has prosecuted over 6,900 DUIs. Don't drink or use cannabis, or other drugs, and drive any kind of vehicle. We will prosecute."

District Attorney Lacey's office has filed more than 12,000 driving under the influence cases to date this year, while City Attorney Feuer's office has filed more than 6,900 such cases.

The number of driving under the influence of drug cases presented for filing consideration nearly quadrupled from 285 such cases in 2017 to more than 1,000 as of Sept. 30. Similarly, City Attorney Feuer's office saw a 66% increase in such filings, from 433 cases reviewed in 2017 to 720 this year.

In addition, City Attorney Feuer prosecuted 11 DUI's stemming from motorized scooters.

Anticipating an increase in these cases, District Attorney Lacey established the DUI Training and Prosecution Section in January 2017 to address this emerging area of cannabis-related criminal law.

Thanks to a \$1.3 million grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, her office continues to improve training and increase the number of certified drug recognition experts in Los Angeles County.

City Attorney Feuer's office was awarded a \$724,966 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety to expand a vertical prosecution team focused on impaired driving and advancing traffic safety.

Both Lacey and Feuer reiterated they will aggressively investigate and prosecute vehicular deaths and injuries caused by impaired drivers.

"We need the help of family, friends and others who can hopefully prevent a potential deadly outcome when they notice someone may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs," District Attorney Lacey said.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.